



ESF 15 Business / Nonprofit Update

Produced by Emergency Support Function 15 – External Affairs

November 2013

ITEMS OF INTEREST FOR ESF 15

Holiday Travel Tips

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has put together a complete list of tips for holiday travel this year. Among the tips, wrapped gifts are allowed, but not encouraged. TSA recommends waiting until you land to wrap them. If there's something in the gift that needs to be inspected, they may have to open it. TSA says their officers try their best not to mangle the gift wrap, but it's not a guarantee and it also slows down the line for everybody else when they have to do this.

<http://blog.tsa.gov/2013/11/tsa-2013-holiday-travel-tips.html>

** Picture courtesy of the TSA Blog*



Winter Preparedness Week

Last winter, snowstorms and cold temperatures affected every part of Virginia. Residents suffered in the wake of power outages and icy roads. Winter Preparedness Week – Dec. 1-7 – is the time to get ready for possible bad weather. “We’ve had several record breaking winter storms in the past few years, and they serve as good reminders that it’s smart to get ready,” said Michael Cline, state coordinator of emergency management. “Everyone should take steps now to prepare themselves and their families for whatever winter might bring.”

<http://www.vaemergency.gov/news/news-releases/2013/winter-preparedness>

Take the Wireless Emergency Alert Survey

Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA), short emergency messages that can be received on cellphones across the country, are one of the many technologies available through the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS). WEAs are automatic and can provide emergency weather and imminent threat notifications, AMBER alerts and presidential messages. Unlike text alerts you may receive from your city, county or institution, WEAs are not subscription based, so customers of participating wireless carriers with WEA-capable phones do not sign up to receive the alerts.. The Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center for Wireless Technologies (Wireless RERC) is interested in learning more about your level of awareness of WEA messages. The survey link below will help them understand the accessibility of this unique technology and how it impacts your community.

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/WirelessRERC_WEA_Survey

Armed Assault at Los Angeles International Airport

On Nov. 1, a gunman opened fire at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX), reportedly motivated by anti-government sentiment and targeting Transportation Security Administration (TSA) officers. To provide context for this attack, START has compiled relevant facts and figures from the Global Terrorism Database. Since 1970 there have been four terrorist attacks at LAX:

- July 4, 2002: Hesham Mohamed Hadayet, an Egyptian-born man, opened fired at the El Al Israeli Airlines ticket counter, killing two people and wounding four others before he was killed by security personnel.
- May 30, 1982: The Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia (ASALA) planted an explosive device at the Air Canada freight terminal. The device was defused and no casualties were reported.
- Jan. 22, 1980: Unknown perpetrators bombed the China Airlines luggage area. No casualties were reported.
- Aug. 6, 1974: Muharem Kurbegovic, also known as “Isak (Isaac) Rasim” or the “alphabet bomber,” detonated explosives the Pan American terminal, killing three people, injuring 36 others and causing

considerable damage.

There have been more than 2,600 terrorist attacks in the U.S. between 1970 and 2012. More than half of these attacks took place in the 1970s.

Source: The National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START)

http://www.start.umd.edu/start/publications/br/STARTFactSheet_ArmedAssaultatLAX_Nov2013.pdf

Cool Technology from DHS

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) employs more than 240,000 people in a variety of areas and activities, from border security and aviation to emergency response and cybersecurity, plus everything in between. Many may not be aware of the fact that DHS has also been busy developing some cool, high-tech, life-saving gear to protect people before, during, and following disasters and emergencies.

<http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20131105-cool-technology-from-dhs>

Virginia Department of Fire Programs Launches New App

The Virginia Department of Fire Programs has released a new home fire safety mobile application called FireSafe Family VA. It is available as a free download for your iPhone, iPad and Android mobile devices.

<http://www.vafire.com/>



DoD Special Access Records to Stay Classified at Least 40 Years

Department of Defense special access programs (SAPs) will normally remain classified for at least 40 years, according to newly issued DoD SAP marking guidance. SAPs are established to protect particularly sensitive government information by imposing access requirements that exceed those for other classified information. "SAP documents, dated prior to Jan. 1, 1982, shall be declassified on Dec. 31, 2021," the DoD marking guidance said. "SAP documents dated after Jan. 1, 1982, shall be declassified on Dec. 31 of the 40th year after the date of the document, unless it is reviewed and submitted for another extension." See Special Access Program (SAP) Security Manual: Marking, DoD Manual 5205.07, vol. 4, Oct. 10. The use of special access controls by the Department of Defense has proved problematic over the years because it disrupts the oversight protocols that would otherwise be in effect. DoD SAPs have produced several multi-billion dollar program failures, including the A-12 aircraft, the TSSAM missile, and others.

<http://blogs.fas.org/secrecy/2013/11/saps-40/>

FEMA Region III Congratulates VDEM Public Affairs

VDEM's Public Affairs staff has been recognized by FEMA Region III for work to promote the Oct. 17, 2013, Great Southeast ShakeOut earthquake drill. More than 1.2 million people in Virginia signed up for the drill out of a population of 8 million, resulting in Virginia being second only to California for number of participants in the multi-state drill. "Your success not only showcases Virginia as a leading example here in the region but nationally as well," said Steve Edwards, Region III preparedness stakeholder outreach. Laura Southard, VDEM's coordinator for Ready Virginia, noted that local emergency managers and their efforts to inform residents about the ShakeOut contributed greatly to the overwhelming turnout.



Transitioning to Safer Chemicals: A Toolkit for Employers and Workers

Each year, tens of thousands of American workers are made sick or die from occupational exposures to hazardous

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chemicals. While many chemicals are suspected of being harmful, OSHA's exposure standards are out-of-date and inadequately protective for the small number of chemicals that are regulated in the workplace. To help keep workers safe, OSHA has launched two new Web resources. The first resource is a step-by-step toolkit to identify safer chemicals that can be used in place of more hazardous ones. The Transitioning to Safer Chemicals toolkit provides employers and workers with information, methods, tools, and guidance on using informed substitution in the workplace. OSHA has also created another new Web resource: the Annotated Permissible Exposure Limits, or annotated PELs tables, which will enable employers to voluntarily adopt newer, more protective workplace exposure limits.

<https://www.osha.gov/as/opa/quicktakes/qt11012013.html>



www.CapitalRegionUpdates.gov

CDC Accredited for Emergency Management

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has received accreditation from the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP) for its excellence in emergency management. CDC is the first federal agency to attain full accreditation of its emergency management program. Accreditation means a program has completed the six step EMAP process, including a self-assessment, an on-site appraisal and a committee review. The on-site assessment and follow-up report includes a summary of compliance against 64 EMAP standards set out in the Emergency Management Standard. Since 1997, EMAP's independent assessors and program review committee evaluates local, state and national emergency management programs to ensure they meet nationally set standards for emergency management and promote consistent quality of in emergency management programs. The cost of accreditation is \$50,000 and is valid for five years. Thirty one states, the District of Columbia and 14 cities and counties in the United States are accredited.

www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2013/p1114-accredited-emergency-management.html

GAO says TSA's Costly Behavioral Detection Program Falls Short

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) said last week that DHS may have wasted \$1 billion on the Transportation Security Administration's (TSA) Screening of Passengers by Observation Techniques (SPOT) program. SPOT aims to spot terrorists by detecting "anomalous" or suspicious behavior. The anomalous behavior – perspiration, fidgeting, restlessness – is supposed to be the result of high levels of stress, fear, or deception. Individuals who exhibit anomalous behavior are subject to additional security screening.

GAO Report: <http://www.gao.gov/assets/660/658923.pdf>

<http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20131118-gao-says-tsa-s-costly-behavioral-detection-program-falls-short>

Holiday Shopping Safety

The holiday shopping season has begun, and the Fairfax County Consumer Affairs Branch offers these suggestions to stay safe in area parking lots while out conducting your holiday shopping:

- Don't leave valuables in plain sight through your car windows.
- Park in busy, well-lit areas.
- Lock all vehicle doors.
- Set an alarm or anti-theft device on your vehicle, if you have one. If you sense danger, use your remote key access "panic" button to sound the alarm.

- Request a security escort if necessary.
- Always have car keys in hand to ensure easy access to the vehicle.

For more advice or holiday shopping information, contact the Consumer Affairs Branch at 703-222-8435, weekdays from 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., or email consumer@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Firefighters Distribute Christmas Tree Safety Tags

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department crews distributed Christmas tree safety tags to holiday tree lot vendors the week prior to the Thanksgiving holiday. The green and white 5 x 8 inch tags provide valuable fire safety tips for residents when purchasing a live tree. Vendors will provide the “Fire Safety and Your Tree” tags with every tree purchase while they last.

Christmas Tree Fire Safety Tips

- Keep tree base immersed in water.
- Do not permit smoking near the tree.
- Use only lights that are Underwriters Laboratories (U.L.) approved.
- Use flame retardant decorations and paper.
- Inspect lights for frayed or cracked wiring, broken plugs, and defective sockets.
- Unplug lights at night and when leaving the home.
- Remove the tree soon after the holidays—before the needles dry out.



For a printable copy of the “Fire Safety and Your Tree” tag, visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fr/download/MultiLanguageTreeTag.pdf>.

PLANNING / PREPAREDNESS

Most Organizations Unafraid of Phishing

ThreatSim recently released its 2013 State of the Phish Awareness Index, gauging phishing training, awareness and readiness among 300 IT executives, administrators and professionals in organizations throughout the United States. The key finding: most organizations (57 percent) rate phishing as a ‘minimal’ impact threat (resulting in investigation and account resets), while one in four respondents (27 percent) reported phishing attacks that led to a ‘material’ breach within the last year. The survey defined ‘material’ as some form of malware infection, unauthorized access and lost/stolen data from a breach tied to phishing. Another interesting finding is that sixty percent (60 percent) of all respondents reported phishing attacks targeting their organization were increasing each year; yet the majority of organizations are doing nothing to implement phishing training and awareness programs (25 percent), or utilizing ineffective techniques, including email notifications, webinars and in-person training (69 percent).

<http://www.net-security.org/secworld.php?id=15878>

Holiday Lighting Safety – Tips to Follow

The holiday season is a festive and joyous occasion. However, it’s also a dangerous part of the year; over 400 lives are claimed, more than 1,600 injuries occur, and over \$990 million in property damage is lost. According to the U.S. Fire Administration, taking simple, common-sense, life-saving steps will help ensure a safe and happy holiday. By taking some easy precautions, residents can greatly reduce their chances of becoming a holiday fire casualty. The Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department offers these lighting safety tips:

- Look for Underwriters Laboratories (UL) label on all holiday light sets to ensure UL standards are met.
- Buy lighting sets according to indoor use, outdoor use, or both.

- Before attaching lights, check for fraying wires, damaged sockets, or cracked insulation. If defects are found, replace the entire set.
- To minimize fire and shock danger, make sure a bulb is in each socket. If a bulb burns out, leave it in and unplug the light set – then replace the bulb.
- Don't connect more light strings than the manufacturer recommends.
- Keep indoor extension cords and lights away from water.
- All outdoor cords, plugs, and sockets must be weatherproof.

As a final precaution, make sure you have a working smoke alarm on every level of your home, and ensure you have an escape plan, and practice it. Learn more online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fr.

Boston Hotels Spearhead Effort to Tweet Alerts to Guests

The Boston chapter of the International Lodging Safety and Security Association is helping Boston hotels get up to speed on Twitter and its emergency notification capabilities by applying to be a “recognized alert broadcaster.”

<http://www.securitydirectornews.com/general-news/twitter-skyrockets-alert-platform>

The Gift of Help

From Superstorm Sandy that struck the northeast U.S. in 2012 to Typhoon Haiyan that recently hit the Philippines, assistance is still needed to help survivors recover. This holiday season, give the gift of help by volunteering with disaster relief efforts or by making financial contributions through reputable relief organizations such as the American Red Cross, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Center for International Disaster Information (CIDI) and the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (NVOAD). Currently these organizations are continuing relief efforts for those impacted by Typhoon Haiyan, Superstorm Sandy, the Colorado floods and more. Find a volunteer opportunity near you or join your local Citizens Corps for more ways to get involved!

Reprinted from the Individual and Community Preparedness e-Brief, Nov. 20 edition, from FEMA

Winter Weather Driving

With the season it also means cold temperatures and winter weather. And that means keeping safe on area roads in case of snow, sleet or freezing rain. The Virginia Department of Transportation offers these inclement weather driving safety tips:

- Be sure to clear the snow and ice from your vehicle's roof, hood and trunk and especially from the windows, mirrors and lights.
- Always wear your seat belt.
- Leave a few minutes early.
- Start out slowly in the lowest gear recommended by your vehicle's manufacturer.
- Be aware of potentially icy areas such as shady spots and bridges.
- Keep a safe distance of at least five seconds behind other vehicles as well as trucks that are plowing the road.
- Don't pass a snowplow or spreader unless it is absolutely necessary. Treat these as you would emergency response vehicles.
- And don't get on the road without a winter travel survival kit.

If your vehicle breaks down, pull as far off the road as possible. Your greatest personal danger at this point is being hit by passing cars. Stay in the car if visibility is poor. You may become disoriented and lost while wandering in a snowstorm, making it more difficult for rescuers to find you. If you have a cellphone, call for help.

<http://www.virginiadot.org/programs/faq-winterdrive.asp>

Back It Up

Businesses create and manage a large amount of data and electronic information. Some of that data is essential to daily operations and business survival. Vital information can be lost due to hacking, human error or hardware failure resulting in significant business disruption. Would you know what to do if your information technology stopped working? This is when having a plan for data backup and recovery will come in handy. To develop your data backup plan, you should:

- Identify what data to backup.
- Implement hardware and software procedures.
- Schedule and conduct backups.
- Periodically check data to ensure it has been accurately backed up.

Data backup and recovery is an integral part of the business continuity plan for IT disaster preparedness. Data on network servers, wireless devices, laptop and desktop computers should be backed up along with hard copy records and other information. Tapes, cartridges and large capacity USB drives with integrated data backup software are effective means for business backup.

Taking steps to secure your business' vital information is also a great way to support the America's PrepareAthon! campaign to increase community resilience in times of disaster. Follow @PrepareAthon on Twitter for all things disaster preparedness.

Reprinted from the Individual and Community Preparedness e-Brief, Nov. 20 edition, from FEMA

National Terrorism Advisory System

The Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) National Terrorism Advisory System (NTAS) is a robust terrorism advisory system that provides timely information to the public about credible terrorist threats and replaces the former color-coded alert system. Under NTAS, DHS will coordinate with other federal entities to issue detailed alerts to the public when the federal government receives information about a credible terrorist threat. NTAS alerts provide a concise summary of the potential threat including geographic region, mode of transportation, or critical infrastructure potentially affected by the threat, actions being taken to ensure public safety, as well as recommended steps that individuals, communities, business and governments can take to help prevent, mitigate or respond to a threat. NTAS Alerts will include a clear statement on the nature of the threat, which will be defined in one of two ways:

- "Elevated Threat": Warns of a credible terrorist threat against the United States.
- "Imminent Threat": Warns of a credible, specific, and impending terrorist threat against the United States.

Depending on the nature of the threat, alerts may be sent to law enforcement, distributed to affected areas of the private sector, or issued more broadly to the public through both official and social media channels – including a designated DHS webpage (www.dhs.gov/alerts), Facebook and via Twitter @NTASAlerts. NTAS alerts and posters will also be displayed in places such as transit hubs, airports and government buildings. NTAS threat alerts will be issued for a specific time period and will automatically expire. Alerts may be extended if new information becomes available or as a specific threat evolves. For more information on the National Terrorism Advisory System or to receive NTAS alerts, visit www.dhs.gov/alerts.

Community Emergency Alert Network (CEAN)

Get emergency alerts by email, as well as by text or pager. Sign up at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cean. Businesses can also register up to five people in their organizations – such as security officers – who can receive alerts and then share that information with their workforce.



MEDIA ARTICLES OF INTEREST

Natural Disasters Take an Emotional Toll on Children

Children caught up in the emotional aftermath of disasters like the Australian bushfires need ongoing support to help them understand that their feelings are natural and normal. After a natural disaster many people experience some anxiety and stress, which is completely normal. Most people haven't been through an experience like that before, so they don't know what to expect or what is 'normal' in terms of the emotional impact.

<http://medicalxpress.com/news/2013-11-natural-disasters-emotional-toll-kids.html>



New Climate Change Order Aims to Prepare Communities for Severe Weather

In another move to address the impact of climate change, President Barack Obama recently ordered a bipartisan task force to help U.S. communities brace for longer heat waves, heavier downpours, more severe wildfires and worse droughts. Federal agencies were also directed to modernize their programs in ways that will support investments that will help cities and towns gird against extreme weather.

<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=new-obama-order-aims-to-prepare-for-severe-weather>

How Malls Plan to Keep Shoppers Safe this Holiday

This is the time of year that retailers want you thinking about Santa Claus and presents, but two recent mall shootings may be fresh on consumers' minds as the critical season kicks off. The National Retail Federation has also taken steps to promote safety within the industry. In 2011, the group produced an information packet with the Department of Homeland Security detailing emergency response protocols and guidelines when dealing with an active shooter. Information includes the profile of a typical shooter, basic guidelines and considerations, and how retailers can prepare. It also features a risk assessment form to identify the best response plan for a particular retailer, and whether it is better to evacuate or seek shelter in a certain situation.

<http://www.cnn.com/id/101172176>

Don't Mess With EAS

That's the word from the FCC, so if you ever thought about simulating those EAS sounds in a bit or commercial you may want to bag that idea. FCC Enforcement Bureau Acting Chief Robert Ratcliffe said, "The FCC will not tolerate misuse or abuse of the Emergency Alert System. It is inexcusable to trivialize the sounds specifically used to notify viewers of the dangers of an incoming tornado or to alert them to be on the lookout for a kidnapped child, merely to advertise a talk show or a clothing store." TBS was hit with a \$25,000 Notice of Apparent Liability.

<http://www.radioink.com/Article.asp?id=2720259&spid=30800>

Background Check Contractor at Risk of Suspension, Experts Say

The government's top contractor that performs security clearance background investigations appears to be scrambling to head off suspension or debarment as it comes under increased fire for allegedly defrauding the government. Last week, the Justice Department joined in a False Claims Act lawsuit filed against USIS of Falls Church, Va. The firm performs almost two-thirds of the background checks for security clearances that are extended to millions of federal employees and contractors, according to one lawmaker. The case, unsealed in late October, was filed in Alabama two years ago by Blake Percival, a former director of fieldwork services at the company, who alleges that USIS systematically submitted background investigations to the government that were incomplete or not properly reviewed, which, if true, would constitute fraud.

<http://www.federaltimes.com/article/20131103/PERSONNEL01/311030001/Background-check-contractor-risk-suspension-experts-say>

Study: Time to Include Mental Health Services in Disaster Response

A new study asserts that emergency planning and disaster response should include consideration for mental health services. Psychiatrists say disaster-related psychic trauma should be identified, triaged and treated the same as physical injuries.

<http://www.homeland1.com/homeland-security-columnists/doug-page/articles/1599541-study-time-to-include-mental-health-services-in-disaster-response/>

Court Says New York Neglected Disabled in Emergencies

New York City has violated the rights of about 900,000 of its residents with disabilities by failing to accommodate for their needs during emergencies, a federal judge ruled earlier this month. The ruling arose from a lawsuit filed in 2011 after Tropical Storm Irene, but came into sharper focus after Hurricane Sandy, when many New Yorkers with disabilities were stranded for days. The judge, Jesse M. Furman of Federal District Court in Manhattan, found that the city, through “benign neglect,” was in violation of the Americans With Disabilities Act. The plaintiffs, which included two nonprofit groups representing people with disabilities and two individuals — a man who is blind and a woman who uses a wheelchair — sued the city after Tropical Storm Irene, which failed to do much damage in the city but nonetheless prompted a large-scale evacuation.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/11/08/nyregion/new-yorks-emergency-plans-violate-disabilities-act-judge-says.html>

Game to Destroy CCTV Cameras: Vandalism or Valid Protest?

As a youth in a ski mask marches down a Berlin U-Bahn train, dressed head-to-toe in black, commuters may feel their only protection is the ceiling-mounted CCTV camera nearby. But he is not interested in stealing wallets or iPhones — he is after the camera itself. This is Camover, a new game being played across Berlin, which sees participants trashing cameras in protest against the rise in close-circuit television across Germany. The game is real-life Grand Theft Auto for those tired of being watched by the authorities in Berlin; points are awarded for the number of cameras destroyed and bonus scores are given for particularly imaginative modes of destruction. Axes, ropes and pitchforks are all encouraged.

<http://www.theguardian.com/theguardian/shortcuts/2013/jan/25/game-destroy-cctv-cameras-berlin>

Quietest Hurricane Season Since 1982

One year after Hurricane Sandy, the second-costliest hurricane in U.S. history, this year’s season may be best remembered for what hasn’t happened. More than 100 people died in the U.S. as a result of Sandy. Some cities, as well as many families in the Northeast, are still rebuilding their lives and homes after the storm. As far as total damage, only Hurricane Katrina in 2005 was more costly. Yet so far, 2013 is the quietest season for Atlantic hurricanes since 1982.

<http://www.disasternews.net/news/article.php?articleid=5537>

How to Track Superstorm Sandy Funds

New York City’s Bloomberg administration intends to launch a database to better track the billions of dollars of federal relief for Superstorm Sandy victims, even as city legislators hope to craft a system of their own. The competing plans come amid widespread concerns that many of the funds appropriated so far have evaded oversight, potentially leading to fraud and abuse.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/11/16/us-storm-sandy-nyc-bill-idUSBRE9AF00W20131116>

Be Prepared to Fend for Yourself in a Disaster

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) surveyed 2,500 Indiana residents recently and found half of the respondents admitted they did not have a three-day supply of food and water stashed in case of an emergency. Even more of the respondents said they did not have basic emergency stocks of medicines, pet food, flashlights, extra batteries and first-aid supplies.

<http://www.goshennews.com/editorials/x1414508832/Be-prepared-to-fend-for-yourself-in-a-disaster>

Disaster Aid: When Corporate Goodwill Goes Wrong

Just days after Typhoon Haiyan struck the Philippines, destroying entire communities, companies and large

organizations from FedEx to the NBA started pledging aid in various forms, just as they have after other recent disasters. The assistance does much to burnish a company's image. But whether it provides a comparable benefit to a stricken area is often another matter.

<http://finance.yahoo.com/news/disaster-aid-corporate-goodwill-goes-190651989.html>

The New Science of Disaster Prediction

You wouldn't know it from the images of the Philippines this past week, but the science of disaster prediction is flourishing. Prediction and preparation are not the same things, however, and questions have arisen about whether sufficient preparations were made for Typhoon Haiyan. While the Philippines could have been better prepared, perhaps even the best preparation is no match for 200 mph winds.

<http://www.newyorker.com/online/blogs/newsdesk/2013/11/the-new-science-of-disaster-prediction.html>

FLU

Google Flu Trends Adjusts How it Tracks Data

Google Flu Trends has adjusted the modeling it uses so that it can more accurately predict US activity after it overemphasized flu severity last season, Google engineer Christian Stefansen said in a recent blog post (<http://blog.google.org/2013/10/flu-trends-updates-model-to-help.html>). The tool predicts influenza activity based on Google search terms, and it tracked with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) data fairly well from the end of the 2009-10 H1N1 pandemic till early this year, Stefansen wrote. In January, after Google Flu Trends experts noticed differences between its estimates and weekly CDC reports, they examined the cause. "We found that heightened media coverage on the severity of the flu season resulted in an extended period in which users were searching for terms we've identified as correlated with flu levels," Stefansen wrote. "In early 2013, we saw more flu-related searches in the U.S. than ever before." After examining several options to fix the model, "We determined that an update using the peak from the 2012-2013 season provided a close approximation of flu activity for recent seasons," Stefansen said. "We will be applying this update to the U.S. flu level estimates for the 2013-2014 flu season, starting from August 1." The new model will forecast lower flu levels than last year's model did at a similar point, Stefansen said, which should better approximate CDC data. A study published in mid-October found fault with the reliability of Google Flu Trends, saying it missed the first wave of the 2009 pandemic and greatly overestimated the 2012-13 epidemic.

<http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2013/10/flu-scan-oct-30-2013>

Bird Flu Strain Infects Human for First Time

A strain of bird flu that scientists thought could not infect people has shown up in a Taiwanese woman, a nasty surprise that shows scientists must do more to spot worrisome flu strains before they ignite a global outbreak, doctors say. On a more hopeful front, two pharmaceuticals separately reported encouraging results from human tests of a possible vaccine against a different type of bird flu that has been spreading in China since first being identified last spring, which is feared to have pandemic potential. The woman, 20, was hospitalized in May with a lung infection. After being treated with Tamiflu and antibiotics, she was released. One of her throat swabs was sent to the Taiwan Centres for Disease Control. Experts there identified it as the H6N1 bird flu, widely circulating in chickens on the island.

http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/E/EU_MED_TAIWAN_BIRD_FLU

Fairfax County Flu Preparedness

Be sure to visit the county's flu Web page for information and news on flu and flu preparedness.

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/flu>



TRAININGS / EXERCISES / CONFERENCES

The Resilience Summit

Dec. 3-4; Orlando, Fla.

The Resilience Summit is specifically targeted for Disaster Recovery, Business Continuity, Emergency Preparedness & IT Security professionals. This event facilitates focused discussions with vendors offering the latest technologies and innovative solutions.

<http://www.forumevents.com/upcoming-forums/resilience-summit-be-prepared-dec-2013>

Society for Risk Analysis Annual Meeting

Dec. 8-11; Baltimore, Md.

Conference sessions will identify ways that risk analysis can assist private and public policy makers to improve decisions in a world of complex and uncertain governance challenges. Special emphasis will be placed on the role of risk analysis as a tool for policy making and risk-benefit balancing.

<http://sra.org/events/sra-2013-annual-meeting>

Understanding Terrorism and the Terrorist Threat

Jan. 27 - March 24, 2014; Online

Terrorism Studies does not fall within any one traditional academic discipline and it is often plagued by subjectivity and a lack of empirical data. The National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START), a Department of Homeland Security Center of Excellence housed at the University of Maryland, will apply its multi-disciplinary and mixed-method approach to research in this course, utilizing theory and quantitative and qualitative research from a range of the social and behavioral sciences. Throughout the course, students will work with the University of Maryland's Global Terrorism Database (GTD), the largest database of terrorist incidents in the world, learning its capabilities and developing basic skills in searching and displaying appropriate and accurate sets of terrorism data.

<https://www.coursera.org/course/understandingterror>

Oklahoma City Hosts Third Annual National Tornado Summit

Feb. 10-11, 2014; Oklahoma City, Okla.

The National Tornado Summit includes dedicated tracks for insurance producers, insurance adjusters, emergency managers and meteorologists. General Sessions will offer information beneficial to all attendees. The Summit will begin with a panel discussion of lessons learned from violent tornadoes. The panel will include mayors from Tuscaloosa and Moore.

<http://www.tornadosummit.org/>

From Burned Over to Rusted Out: Disaster and Recovery

Feb. 22, 2014, Rochester, N.Y.

The conference will capture stories and theories of disaster and recovery as they apply to all places, eras, and types of history. Papers will address the topic from all disciplines, especially those that deal with disaster and recovery in an environmental setting; economic disaster and recovery; biographies of groups or individuals that confront disaster and recovery; regional studies that look at the rise and fall of political groups, economic theories and power

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structures; the role disaster and recovery play in political narratives; and recovery of the humanities.

http://www.rochester.edu/College/his/graduate/ghs_conference.html

National Hurricane Conference

April 14-17, 2014; Orlando, Fla.

The primary goal of the National Hurricane Conference is to improve hurricane preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation in order to save lives and property in the United States and the tropical islands of the Caribbean and Pacific. In addition, the conference serves as a national forum for federal, state and local officials to exchange ideas and recommend new policies to improve Emergency Management.

<http://hurricanemeeting.com>

Global Summit on Borders

May 13-14, 2014; Washington, D.C.

Conference focuses on international trade, travel and homeland security. Topics include critical issues in trade facilitation, supply chain security, customs enforcement, safe and efficient immigration, and border and maritime security.

<http://www.global-borders.com/>

Cybersecurity Overview for Public Safety Administrators

The DHS Science and Technology Directorate's First Responders Group recently announced the Capacity Building Webinar Series. Initiated in November 2012, the series offers training in new information sharing technologies and tools. The webinars strive to help participants manage information and develop tools, processes, and technology applications that can be used during an emergency. The series also aims to foster innovation and collaboration amongst first responders participating in the training

<http://www.firstresponder.gov/FRBlog/Post.aspx?ID=147>

National Capital Region Homeland Security Events

http://www.mwcog.org/committee/committee/events_homeland.asp?COMMITTEE_ID=134

Virginia Emergency Management Courses

<http://www.vaemergency.com>

FEMA Independent Study Courses

<http://www.training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/>

American Red Cross Disaster Services Training

http://www.redcrossnca.org/Online/disaster_registration.php

LINKS

Fairfax County Web Resources

- Fairfax County Emergency Information Blog - www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/blog
- Fairfax County Emergency Information Web page - www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/
- Fairfax County CERT - <http://fairfaxcountycert.blogspot.com/>
- Fairfax County Citizen Corps Web Page - www.fairfaxcounty.gov/oem/citizencorps/
- Fairfax County Citizen Corps Blog - <http://citizencorps.blogspot.com/>

Additional Web Resources

- Capital Region Updates - www.CapitalRegionUpdates.gov
- Virginia Citizen Corps - www.vaemergency.com/citcorps/index.cfm

The ESF 15 Business / Nonprofit Update is designed to provide information about Emergency Support Function 15 (External Affairs) along with news articles and informational updates relating to Homeland Security and emergency management to ESF 15 partners. Inclusion of any resource, information or Web link is not an endorsement of the product, service or organization. The ESF 15 Business / Nonprofit Update is produced by Fairfax County's Office of Public Affairs – the lead agency for ESF 15.

DHS Science & Technology Directorate Newsletter

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Science & Technology Directorate has a free newsletter, "S&T Snapshots," featuring stories about current research projects and opportunities with laboratories, universities, government agencies, and the private sector. The newsletter is produced monthly by the DHS Science and Technology Directorate in partnership with the Homeland Security Institute, a Studies and Analysis Federally Funded Research and Development Center.

<http://www.homelandsecurity.org/snapshots/>

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report (OSIR)

The Department of Homeland Security provides a Web-based "Daily OSIR," which is posted on the DHS public Web site. Accessing the report via the Web enables readers to retrieve the current Daily Report as well as 10 days of archived DHS Daily Reports. Once you arrive at the Web page you will find the most recent Daily OSIR at the top of the page, under the title "Current Report." This report is posted each morning, except for weekends and holidays. Simply click on the title "DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report." This will launch the current days report in PDF format. You can submit content comments or make suggestions by contacting the DHS Daily Report Team by telephone at 202-312-3421 or by e-mail at NICCRReports@dhs.gov. You can access the Daily OSIR at:

http://www.dhs.gov/files/programs/editorial_0542.shtm.

Fairfax County Government Emergency Information Line

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/opa/infoline.htm

Emergency Management Magazine

<http://www.govtech.com/em/toc.php>

FEMA Private Sector

<http://www.fema.gov/privatesector/>

ESF 15 Contact Information

Merni Fitzgerald, Director
Fairfax County Office of Public Affairs
12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 551 ♦ Fairfax, Va. 22035-0065
Tel: 703-324-3187 ♦ Direct: 703-324-3189
E-mail: Merni.Fitzgerald@fairfaxcounty.gov
Web site: www.fairfaxcounty.gov
Emergency Information: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency

To Unsubscribe:

E-mail publicaffairs@fairfaxcounty.gov with "Remove from ESF 15 Business/Nonprofit Update" in the subject line and you will be immediately removed from the distribution list.

In accordance with NIMS – the National Incident Management System – the Fairfax County Emergency Operations Plan states that Emergency Support Function 15 (External Affairs) is led by the Office of Public Affairs. This ESF 15 Business/Nonprofit Update is part of the county's outreach efforts for our business and nonprofit partners as a way to provide information about the county's ESF 15, Homeland Security and emergency management.

Please feel free to forward this ESF 15 Business/Nonprofit Update to other contacts you have inside or outside your organization. Should someone you know like to be added to our distribution list, have them send an e-mail to jim.person@fairfaxcounty.gov and ask to be subscribed to the ESF 15 Business/Nonprofit Update.

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